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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/731,680	12/06/2000	Arthur S. Haseltine	437-4	9308

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EXAMINER

ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3639

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/731,680

Applicant(s)

HASELTINE, ARTHUR S.

Examiner

Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-26, 28-33, 35, 36 and 38-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-26, 28-33, 35, 36, and 38-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Status of Claims***

1. Due to communications filed 5/2/05, the following is a final office action. Claims 1-22, 27, 34 and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 24, 25, 31, 32, 36, 39 and 40 have been amended. Claims 23-26, 28-33, 35, 36, and 38-40 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. The previous rejection has been withdrawn, and the following reflects the claims as amended.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23-26, 28-33 and 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers et al (US 6,018,719), and further in view of Kramer et al (US 6,324,525).

As per claim 24, Rogers et al discloses:

a distributed purchasing public of remote...merchants merchandise..., (Col. 3, lines 61-64, [local retailer computer at a central station with links to registers at individual stores], w/ col. 4, lines 49-51, [where customer is shown to bring merchandise to the register for a product transaction, therefore, customers can be located at different individual stores]);

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a plurality of remote...merchants transacting...sales...accompanied in each instance by a form of record thereof, whereby the...merchants likely desire greater physical distribution among their distributed purchasers...for sake of offering proximity for walk-in return service, (Col. 4, lines 7-13, [regional computer system for a large chain of stores], Col. 3, lines 59-61, [having the local computer system located in proximity to the register, thus making it advantageous and more effective for product transactions]);

a network of distributed...stores providing a network of distributed, physical stores in which to process the walk-in return business of the remote...merchants, and which...stores do not stock or offer the remote...merchants's merchandise or merchandise competitive thereto for retail sale but whose motivation for offering to process returns thereof is for the reverse logistics business thereof, (Col. 3 lines 61-64, [retailer computer links to the registers at individual stores], w/ Col. 8, lines 8-19, [retailer {sales associate} cross-referencing the serial number of the product with the serial number on the receipt to verify the sales receipt]);

an association resource providing merchandise-return information services for exchange among...stores over a communications medium, (Col. 8, lines 20-34, [scan and link to serial number, exchange]); and

an out-sourced merchandise-return program configured such that the...stores accept the walk-in returns of the...merchants' merchandise upon authorization received from the merchandise-return information services based on the input of information from the form of record for the merchandise, (Abstract, lines 1-3, [facilitates authorized

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product returns], w/ Col. 8, lines 20-36, [where records are represented by information in the retailer/manufacturer database and the authorization is represented by making sure qualifications are met], w/ Col. 4, lines 24-26, [where database is shown to store transaction information about merchandise]);

Wherein the association resource is a resource for merchandise-return information corresponding to information on original sales transactions by which a given merchandiser fulfilled or caused fulfillment of orders of merchandise, (Col. 8, lines 20-34, [where scanning is for serial numbers of products that were previously purchased]).

Rogers fails to disclose mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores, but does disclose return transactions with a retailer sales associate in the abstract, lines 1-15.

However, Kramer et al discloses:

mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores (col. 4, lines 3-5, shows retail sales and mail sales, w/ col. 14, line 65-col. 15, line 11, shows on-line mail ordering of goods, w/ col. 15 lines 20-23, shows shipping the goods from the merchant to the card holder, w/ col. 139, lines 32-33, shows that the payment instrument for a transaction is a credit card). Kramer et al discloses these limitations in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that credit cards can be used to complete a transaction via mail-order.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales

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making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores with the motivation of incorporating mail-orders into a merchandise-return system.

The following is not disclosed by Rogers:

of brick-and-mortar centers

However, brick and mortar centers are in the same category as a store. For example, Home Depot is a store where a consumer can buy and/or return bricks and mortar. Therefore, the store being a brick and mortar center is obvious and does not hold patentable weight to the claim.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention for a merchandise-return system to include brick and mortar centers with the motivation of processing return transactions for remote merchandisers of bricks and mortars.

Rogers fails to disclose wherein any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a given purchaser of the given mail-order merchant's merchandise to transact a walk-in return thereof is empowered under the program to give instant credit to the credit card used to make the purchase so that the given purchaser walks out with the instant credit thereto, but does disclose point-of-return associates in the abstract, lines 3-5.

However, Kramer et al discloses wherein any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a given purchaser of the given mail-order merchant's merchandise to transact a walk-in return thereof is empowered under the program to give instant credit to the credit card used to make the purchase so that the

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given purchaser walks out with the instant credit thereto, (Col. 129, lines 30-36, instantaneous transfer, w/ col. 131, lines 25-28, shows real-time settlement with each credit or debit transaction). Kramer et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that settlement of a credit transaction can occur instantly or in real-time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to give instant credit to a credit card with the motivation of crediting the customer's card immediately upon return of the item.

As per claims 23, 30, Rogers et al fails to disclose one of electronic or non-electronic forms of records attached to returnable units of merchandise during or before order fulfillment wherein the forms facilitate research of information with the association service, but does disclose a returnable unit of merchandise in the abstract, lines 11-14.

However, Kramer et al discloses:

one of electronic or non-electronic forms of records attached to returnable units of merchandise during or before order fulfillment wherein the forms facilitate research of information with the association service, (Col. 15, lines 2-10, electronic order form). Kramer et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that a form pertaining to a transaction can be delivered electronically before the order is authorized and processed. In this case, attaching the form to the unit is obvious since the form can be created on the cardholder's computer, which has a printer for printing out the form, and it is standard practice to include a return order slip when returning merchandise in the parcel industry.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have one of electronic or non-electronic forms of records attached to returnable units of merchandise during or before order fulfillment wherein the forms facilitate research of information with the association service with the motivation of making information about the return readily accessible.

As per claims 25, 32, 40, Rogers et al discloses:

wherein the association resource and at least some of the distributed community of... stores are part of a common organization/wherein said merchandise return system and at least some of the... stores are under common ownership or control, (Col. 3, lines 61-63, [chain stores]).

As per claims 26, 33, Rogers et al discloses:

wherein the association resource exchanges information over the communications medium with at least some of the plurality of remote merchants, (Col. 8, lines 20-28, [linking to manufacturer database and authorizing by checking dates and qualifications]).

As per claim 28, Rogers et al discloses:

wherein the pertinent return-acceptance criteria are communicated in a message further comprising return fulfillment instructions in cases if the pertinent return acceptance criteria are met, (Col. 8, lines 29-36, [shows fulfillment instructions by identifying to the associate that if products were purchased within the past 90 days and also meet all other manufacturer return qualifications, that these products can be



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refunded or exchanged], w/ Col. 8, line 55-Col. 9, line 1, [shows that consumer's return options are displayed to the associate]).

As per claim 29, Rogers et al discloses:

the association resource is a resource for merchandise-return information corresponding to information on original sales transactions by which any participating merchandiser fulfilled or caused fulfillment of orders of merchandise, (Col. 8, lines 20-34, [where scanning is for serial numbers of products that were previously purchased]).

As per claims 31, 39, Rogers et al discloses:

a distributed purchasing public of remote...merchants' merchandise making purchased of such by credit card, (Col. 3, lines 61-64, [local retailer computer at a central station with links to registers at individual stores], w/ col. 4, lines 49-51, [where customer is shown to bring merchandise to the register for a product transaction, therefore, customers can be located at different individual stores]);

a plurality of participating, remote...merchants transacting...sales...which likely desire greater physical distribution among their distributed purchasers of...centers for sake of offering proximity for walk-in return service, (Col. 4, lines 7-13, [regional computer system for a large chain of stores], Col. 3, lines 59-61, [having the local computer system located in proximity to the register, thus making it advantageous and more effective for product transactions]);

a network of distributed retail mail, parcel and shipping stores which are networked to handle the walk-in return business of the participating...merchants, and which...stores do not stock or offer the participating...merchants's merchandise or

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merchandise competitive thereto for retail sale but whose motivation for offering to process returns thereof is for the reverse logistics business thereof, (Col. 3 lines 61-64, [retailer computer links to the registers at individual stores], w/ Col. 8, lines 8-19, [retailer {sales associate} cross-referencing the serial number of the product with the serial number on the receipt to verify the sales receipt]);

an association resource providing merchandise-return information services for exchange among networked... stores over a communications medium and being a resource of information pertaining to the merchandise of the participating mail-order merchants including pertinent return acceptance criteria, (Col. 8, lines 20-34, [scan and link to serial number, exchange, where the acceptance criteria is represented by return qualifications]); and

an out-sourced merchandise-return program arranged such that the ... stores accept the walk-in returns of the participating ... merchants' merchandise if after contact with the merchandise-return information services the pertinent return-acceptance criteria are met, (Abstract, lines 1-3, [facilitates authorized product returns], w/ Col. 8, lines 20-36, [where records are represented by information in the retailer/manufacturer database and the authorization is represented by making sure qualifications are met where criteria is represented by qualifications], w/ Col. 4, lines 24-26, [where database is shown to store transaction information about merchandise])

Rogers fails to disclose mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores, but

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does disclose return transactions with a retailer sales associate in the abstract, lines 1-15.

However, Kramer et al discloses:

mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores (col. 4, lines 3-5, shows retail sales and mail sales, w/ col. 14, line 65-col. 15, line 11, shows on-line mail ordering of goods, w/ col. 15 lines 20-23, shows shipping the goods from the merchant to the card holder, w/ col. 139, lines 32-33, shows that the payment instrument for a transaction is a credit card). Kramer et al discloses these limitations in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that credit cards can be used to complete a transaction via mail-order.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores with the motivation of incorporating mail-orders into a merchandise-return system.

The following is not disclosed by Rogers:

of brick-and-mortar centers

However, brick and mortar centers are in the same category as a store. For example, Home Depot is a store where a consumer can buy and/or return bricks and mortar. Therefore, the store being a brick and mortar center is obvious and does not hold patentable weight to the claim.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention for a merchandise-return system to include brick and mortar

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centers with the motivation of processing return transactions for remote merchandisers of bricks and mortars.

Rogers fails to disclose where any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a walk-in party to transact a return of a participating mail-order merchant's merchandise is empowered under the program if the return-acceptance criteria are met to give instant credit to the credit card used to make the purchase so that the walk-in party walks out with instant credit thereto, but does disclose point-of-return associates in the abstract, lines 3-5.

However, Kramer et al discloses where any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a walk-in party to transact a return of a participating mail-order merchant's merchandise is empowered under the program if the return-acceptance criteria are met to give instant credit to the credit card used to make the purchase so that the walk-in party walks out with instant credit thereto, (Col. 129, lines 30-36, instantaneous transfer, w/ col. 131, lines 25-28, shows real-time settlement with each credit or debit transaction). Kramer et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that settlement of a credit transaction can occur instantly or in real-time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to give instant credit to a credit card with the motivation of crediting the customer's card immediately upon return of the item.

As per claim 35, Rogers et al discloses:

wherein the merchandise-return information served by the information resource

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includes criteria for making either a positive or negative return decision and, in cases of positive return decisions, further comprise return fulfillment instructions, (Col. 8, lines 29-34, [represents the positive return decision shown by allowing a refund or exchange {represents the return fulfillment instructions} if the return is within 90 days after the purchase], Col. 8, lines 38-48, [represents the negative decision shown by not allowing a refund or exchange, but referring to a repair facility instead if the return is past the 90 day mark])).

As per claim 36, Rogers et al discloses:

A distributed purchasing public of remote mail-order merchants' merchandise making purchases of such by credit card, (Col. 3, lines 61-64, [local retailer computer at a central station with links to registers at individual stores], w/ col. 4, lines 49-51, [where customer is shown to bring merchandise to the register for a product transaction, therefore, customers can be located at different individual stores]);

a plurality of participating, remote...merchants making...sales thereto and which likely desire greater physical distribution among their distributed purchasers of brick and mortar centers for sake of offering proximity for walk-in return service, (Col. 4, lines 7-13, [regional computer system for a large chain of stores], Col. 3, lines 59-61, [having the local computer system located in proximity to the register, thus making it advantageous and more effective for product transactions]);

a network of distributed...stores which are networked to handle the walk-in-return business of the participating mail-order merchants who are motivated to process returns thereof is for earning the reverses logistics business of the participating...merchants as

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well as an opportunity for showcasing the store as an opportunity for thereafter earning the future mail, parcel and shipping business of any party who walks in to present a return, (Col. 3 lines 61-64, [retailer computer links to the registers at individual stores], w/ Col. 8, lines 8-19, [retailer {sales associate} cross-referencing the serial number of the product with the serial number on the receipt to verify the sales receipt]);

a merchandise-return information resource, providing an exchange of information with the point-return associates over a communications medium, for serving responses to requests for merchandise-return information on merchandise presented for return to the... stores, (Col. 8, lines 20-34, [scan and link to serial number, exchange,]);

an-outsourced merchandise-return program devised such that the... stores accept the walk-in returns of the participating mail-order merchants' merchandise in conformance with the merchandise-return information served by the information resource, (Abstract, lines 1-3, [facilitates authorized product returns], w/ Col. 8, lines 20-36, [where records are represented by information in the retailer/manufacturer database and the authorization is represented by making sure qualifications are met where criteria is represented by qualifications], w/ Col. 4, lines 24-26, [where database is shown to store transaction information about merchandise]);

wherein the merchandise-return information served by the information resource includes criteria for making either a positive or negative return decision and, in cases of positive return decisions, further comprise an award instruction applicable to the party presenting the return merchandise or else another party, which award instruction can be

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chosen from any of instant credit, credit provisional that the merchandiser certifies the propriety of the return upon a later date or event, credit honored by a given association of merchants only, a direct or otherwise refund in cash or equivalent, and/or any combinations thereof, (Col. 8, lines 29-48, [criteria based on how long ago the product was purchased], Col. 8, lines 32-34, [refund represents refund in cash or equivalent]).

Where any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a walk-in party to transact a return of a participating mail-order merchant's merchandise is empowered under the program to comply with any award instruction served by the information resource so that the walk-in-party walks out with a fixed award, (Col. 8, lines 32-34, [refund represents fixed award in cash or equivalent]).

Rogers fails to disclose mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores, but does disclose return transactions with a retailer sales associate in the abstract, lines 1-15.

However, Kramer et al discloses:

mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores (col. 4, lines 3-5, shows retail sales and mail sales, w/ col. 14, line 65-col. 15, line 11, shows on-line mail ordering of goods, w/ col. 15 lines 20-23, shows shipping the goods form the merchant to the card holder, w/ col. 139, lines 32-33, shows that the payment instrument for a transaction is a credit card). Kramer et al discloses these limitations in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that credit cards can be used to complete a transaction vial mail-order.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement mail-order merchants transacting mail-order sales making purchases of such by credit card; or retail mail, parcel and shipping stores with the motivation of incorporating mail-orders into a merchandise-return system.

The following is not disclosed by Rogers:

of brick-and-mortar centers

However, brick and mortar centers are in the same category as a store. For example, Home Depot is a store where a consumer can buy and/or return bricks and mortar. Therefore, the store being a brick and mortar center is obvious and does not hold patentable weight to the claim.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention for a merchandise-return system to include brick and mortar centers with the motivation of processing return transactions for remote merchandisers of bricks and mortars.

Rogers et al fails to disclose one of electronic or non-electronic forms of records attached to returnable units of merchandise during or before order fulfillment wherein the forms facilitate research of information with the association service, but does disclose a returnable unit of merchandise in the abstract, lines 11-14.

However, Kramer et al discloses:

one of electronic or non-electronic forms of records attached to returnable units of merchandise during or before order fulfillment wherein the forms facilitate research of information with the association service, (Col. 15, lines 2-10, electronic order form).



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Kramer et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that a form pertaining to a transaction can be delivered electronically before the order is authorized and processed. In this case, attaching the form to the unit is obvious since the form can be created on the cardholder's computer, which has a printer for printing out the form, and it is standard practice to include a return order slip when returning merchandise in the parcel industry.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have one of electronic or non-electronic forms of records attached to returnable units of merchandise during or before order fulfillment wherein the forms facilitate research of information with the association service with the motivation of making information about the return readily accessible.

Rogers fails to disclose wherein any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a given purchaser of the given mail-order merchant's merchandise to transact a walk-in return thereof is empowered under the program to give instant credit to the credit card used to make the purchase so that the given purchaser walks out with the instant credit thereto, but does disclose point-of-return associates in the abstract, lines 3-5.

However, Kramer et al discloses wherein any retail mail, parcel and shipping store belonging to the network and chosen by a given purchaser of the given mail-order merchant's merchandise to transact a walk-in return thereof is empowered under the program to give instant credit to the credit card used to make the purchase so that the given purchaser walks out with the instant credit thereto, (Col. 129, lines 30-36,

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instantaneous transfer, w/ col. 131, lines 25-28, shows real-time settlement with each credit or debit transaction). Kramer et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that settlement of a credit transaction can occur instantly or in real-time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to give instant credit to a credit card with the motivation of crediting the customer's card immediately upon return of the item.

As per claim 38, Rogers et al discloses:

wherein the electronic forms of records comprise codes which when scanned decode into a URL address and the request to be processed by the information resource, (Col. 7, lines 34-49, [on-line summary report listing all serial numbers accepted or rejected following validation of serial numbers]).

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23-26, 28-33, 35, 36, and 38-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

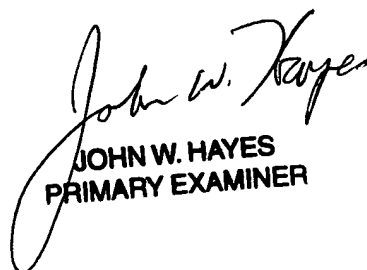
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 8:30am-5pm, and Wednesday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238 [After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



A. R. B.  
July 8, 2005



JOHN W. HAYES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER